

**DECISION NOTICE  
AND  
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)  
USDA Forest Service**

**Swauk Allotment Management Plan Environmental Analysis**

**Okanogan – Wenatchee National Forest  
Cle Elum Ranger District  
Kittitas County, WA**

This Decision Notice documents my decision regarding actions proposed in the Swauk Allotment Management Plan Environmental Assessment, August 2010. This decision notice also describes the rationale for my selection of an alternative for implementation. This decision incorporates the completed Swauk Allotment Management Plan Environmental Assessment (EA) by reference. The Swauk Allotment Management Plan Environmental Assessment is available on request by contacting Jodi Leingang, Wenatchee South Zone Range Administrator, at (509) 653-1450.

**PROJECT LOCATION**

The Swauk allotment is located on the Cle Elum Ranger District in portions of the Swauk and Teanaway watersheds (EA, Appendix A, Map I-1). The allotment is within T20N. R17E., Sections 1-3, 5-6, 11-15; T20N. R18E. Sections 4-9, 18; T21N. R16E. Sections 1-2, 13, 24-25, 36; T21N. R17E. Sections 1-36; T21N. R18E. Sections 1-11, 15-21, 28-33; T22N. R16E. Section 36; T22N. R17E. Sections 27-28, 31-35; and T22N. R18E. Sections 34-36. The allotment is bounded on the north by the Wenatchee River Ranger District (Chelan - Kittitas county line), on the west by the Wenatchee National Forest boundary west of Teanaway Ridge and Redtop Mountain, on the south by Mill Creek and the Wenatchee National Forest boundary, and on the east by Lion Rock, Table Mountain, Diamond Head and Tronson Ridge (EA, Chapter I, Table I-1 and Appendix A, Map I-2).

Swauk Allotment encompasses 47,914 acres. There are 1,105 acres within the allotment that are privately owned including the area in the vicinity of the town of Liberty and Williams Creek. This decision does not authorize activities on private lands.

**THE DECISION**

Based on the analysis documented in the Swauk EA, it is my decision to authorize and implement the Adaptive Management Alternative (Alternative 3), which allows for 1000 ewes with lambs to graze on the Swauk Allotment, for 93 days from approximately June 10 through September 10, annually.

### Routing and Bedding

Livestock will be unloaded at the Liberty Heliport (EA, Appendix A, Map II-2) and travel as described in the EA, Chapter II, page II-3. Bedding areas will occur at various locations along the route (EA Appendix A, Map II-2) where sheep are authorized to stay one or two nights at each location depending on the specific bedground (EA, Chapter II, page II-5 and Analysis file).

### Design Criteria and Best Management Practices

The measures described in the EA (Chapter II, pages II-3 through II-12) are required under the selected alternative and are included to minimize or avoid potential adverse impacts resulting from domestic livestock grazing. Refer to the EA, Chapter II, pages II-2 through II-12 for a detailed description of the design criteria and best management practices.

### Monitoring

Monitoring is a primary component of the selected alternative. Monitoring will be used to confirm that implementation of the selected strategy is contributing to meeting long-term resource objectives. The following monitoring items are required under this alternative (EA, Chapter II, page II-13).

- Monitoring will determine if adequate reestablishment of the vegetation at Williams Creek and Pine Gulch is occurring.
- Sensitive plant populations will continue to be monitored to ensure that no adverse impacts result from domestic sheep grazing.
- The Iron Creek crossing will be monitored annually to ensure that livestock do not cross through Iron Creek and that trailing occurs as described in the EA.
- The Swauk Campground water system will continue to be monitored for adverse impacts associated with domestic sheep grazing.

Monitoring would also consist of regular inspections of the operation over the course of the grazing season. Inspection items include: range readiness monitoring prior to turn-out of livestock, forage utilization monitoring, and bedground and general routing compliance. Areas with the highest priorities at this time are described in the EA, Chapter II, page II-13. These items, in combination with the Forest Plan standards and guidelines, would be used to determine when trigger points have been met or exceeded (EA, Chapter II, pages II-12 and II-13) and there is a need to consider a change from an existing management strategy. Those changes are described below in the adaptive management strategy section.

### Adaptive Management

This alternative utilizes an adaptive management strategy. The strategy emphasizes short and long-term resource objectives and provides an array of management options that best meet or move toward the identified objective. In the context of this decision, this means that a course of action has been selected that is expected to move the current condition toward the desired future condition (EA, Chapter I, page I-6). Monitoring and

subsequent evaluation of results will occur over time to determine if adjustments in management are necessary to ensure adequate progress toward the defined objectives. Any adaptive actions will be within the scope of the effects analysis documented in the EA. If proposed actions are outside of the scope of the effects analysis contained in the EA, additional NEPA documentation and decision will be prepared, as required. The selected alternative specifies the circumstances under which alternative options would be implemented in response to changing conditions or unanticipated results and the criteria and monitoring that would be used to identify those circumstances (EA, Chapter II, page II-12 and Appendix A, Map II-2), specifically:

- Sensitive Plants: Management of recently identified sensitive plant populations through avoidance, rerouting and/or placement of a temporary barrier if it determined that these population are being adversely impacted.
- Revegetation at Williams Creek: Successful revegetation may not be occurring due to a concentration of animals at this location. Re-routing to avoid this area or placement of a temporary barrier may be necessary to resolve this issue.
- Revegetation at Pine Gulch: Successful revegetation may not be occurring due to concentrated use on the slope between bedgrounds 2 and 3. A modification in the number of authorized nights at each bedground, rerouting and/or placement of a temporary barrier may be necessary to resolve this issue.
- Iron Creek alternative crossing: An adaptive option to trailing livestock on Highway 97 in order to avoid crossing through Iron Creek would include trailing of livestock from the 7320 road system across and onto Forest Road 9714-601 and on to the lower portion of Forest Road 9714 for approximately one-half mile.
- Swauk campground water system: Although substantial effort would be used to avoid the Swauk Campground, there is the potential for adverse impacts to the campground water system due to the proximity of a bedground to the spring box. There has not been, nor is there at the present time, any indication that there is a problem associated with this use. Re-routing or protection of the area through temporary barriers may be necessary to resolve this potential issue should it arise.

## **RATIONAL FOR THE DECISION**

My rationale for the decision to implement the Adaptive Management Alternative is based on this alternative's ability to meet the project purpose and need, and to manage the Swauk Allotment toward the desired future condition (EA, Chapter I, page I-6). This alternative provides for continued livestock grazing through modifications to the current management scenario that address multiple resource objectives. This decision will provide for an array of management strategies to be used over time, as needed. This alternative not only addresses changes in the availability of existing transitory range, but also addresses previously unidentified resource issues associated with soil, water and fisheries, plant and animal species of special concern, special and unique habitats, invasive species and cultural properties. Based on the effects analysis in Chapter III of the EA, this project meets the identified purpose and need (Chapter I, pages I-2 and I-3). I have determined that this project will serve the public interest.

## OTHER ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Two other alternatives were fully analyzed in the EA:

- Alternative 1: no-action (no grazing). I did not choose this alternative because it would not have allowed continued grazing in accordance with the purpose and need to meet the Forest Plan requirement to provide for suitable grazing and,
- Alternative 2: current management. I did not select this alternative because it does not anticipate potential future impacts that may occur at strategic locations, nor does it plan adjustments to grazing to solve these potential future impacts. It would require new NEPA to make any adjustments under this alternative.

## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND SCOPING

Formal public involvement for the project was initiated on April 21, 2008, when a description of the proposed action was mailed to individuals, organizations and Federal, State and County agencies thought to have an interest in the project. An interdisciplinary approach was utilized to identify significant issues and consider alternatives presented by resource specialists, public response and management. The public comment period was on-going throughout the environmental analysis process. One e-mail response and one telephone response were received during the initial scoping (April 21-May 21). By utilizing information gleaned throughout the scoping process, the IDT was able to identify significant issues and formulate alternatives to the proposed action. The following issues were identified as a result of scoping:

1. Riparian Health and Fisheries: (Chapter III, pages III-2 through III-20).
2. Terrestrial Ecosystem Health – Sustainability: Chapter III, pages III-3 through III-34).
3. Terrestrial Ecosystem Health – Available Forage/Forage Quantity: (Chapter III, pages III-37 and III-38).
4. Rangeland Resources – Loss of Social and Economic Values: (Chapter III, pages III-45 through III-49).

These issues were resolved through development of the Adaptive Management Alternative (Alternative 3) (EA, Chapter II, pages II-11 through II-13) which provides for the protection of riparian health/fisheries and terrestrial ecosystem health through the application of project design criteria, best management practices, and monitoring to determine if there is a need to adjust the existing management strategy. This adaptive strategy makes available an array of options that best meet or move toward the desired future condition and therefore allows for flexibility to continue to resolve known issues and to address issues that could potentially arise.

The project was also identified in the Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA) for the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest beginning the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter (January-March) of 2008.

Controversy relative to this project was not evident at any time during the scoping process (EA, Chapters IV and V).

The Interdisciplinary Team Leader mailed copies of the EA to six interested parties on August 24, 2010, including: The Yakama Nation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, NOAA Fisheries, and Simon Martinez Livestock, Inc. A public notice appeared in the *Wenatchee World* (the newspaper of record) and *Ellensburg Daily Record* on August 27, 2010, beginning the 30-day comment period. Although no responses were postmarked or delivered during the comment period, the permittee provided late comments that he generally supported Alternative 3. Three specific comments were made by the permittee; one of the comments was unrelated to specific actions associated with this proposal. Responses to the remaining two comments are provided in the attached Consideration of Comments document.

### FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

In compliance with 40 CFR 1508.13 and 1508.27, the following findings support my determination that there will not be a significant effect on the human environment and an environmental impact statement will, therefore, not be prepared.

### SIGNIFICANCE

#### Context

This project is a site-specific action that by itself does not have international, national, region-wide, or statewide importance. I have found that the context of the environmental impacts of this decision is limited to the local area associated with the Swauk Allotment and is not significant. Further, based on the following discussion, I have also determined that the severity of these impacts is not significant.

#### Intensity

1. Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse. A significant effect may exist even if the Federal agency believes that on balance the effect will be beneficial. A thorough effects analysis (direct, indirect, and cumulative) is available in Chapter III of the EA, and in the Biological Assessments, Evaluations and specialists reports (located in the project file). The beneficial effects of the action as disclosed in Chapter III do not bias my finding of no significant environmental effects, nor do beneficial effects mask adverse effects.
2. The degree to which the proposed action affects public health or safety. The selected alternative will have a limited overall positive effect on public health and safety by limiting the occurrence of livestock on Forest Service roadways. In addition, the public will be informed through active coordination, signing and public notices that livestock are present (EA, Chapter II, pages II-6, II-8, and II-9). The water system at Swauk Campground will be monitored for human health

effects and an adaptive strategy will be implemented if any effects are discovered (EA, Chapter II, page II-12).

3. Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas. There will be no significant effects on the unique characteristics of the area. I base my determination on the effects discussion found in the EA Chapter III. Project design criteria and best management practices address and minimize possible effects to historic or cultural resources (EA, Chapter II, page II-8); wet meadows, wetlands and riparian reserves (EA Chapter II, pages II-5 through II-7); and other ecologically critical areas such as those related to grizzly bear, (EA, Chapter II, page II-9), gray wolf (EA, Chapter II, page II-10) and Canada lynx (EA, Chapter II, pages II-10 and II-11) habitat. Although grazing will occur in critical northern spotted owl habitat, this project is not likely to adversely affect the owl or its critical habitat (EA, Chapter III, pages III-64 and III-65). Although inventoried roadless areas and potential wilderness areas are within the project area, grazing will only have minor effects on these areas (EA, Chapter III, page III-79 and III-80).
4. The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial. The effects on the quality of the human environment are not likely to be highly controversial nor has there been any evidence to suggest controversy. Grazing is a long established action on National Forest System lands and impacts from grazing are well known and understood (EA, Chapter III, page III-45 through III-47).
5. The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks. There are no known effects on the human environment that are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks. The types of activities approved in this decision are routine and effects from such activities are well known and understood. Due to the long history of livestock grazing in the eastern Cascades and on the Cle Elum Ranger District, as well as, the body of science developed relating to ungulate grazing and range management, there are no known effects on the human environment that are uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks (EA pages III-1 to III-80).
6. The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration. My decision to implement the actions included in the selected alternative do not set a precedent for other projects that may be implemented to satisfy the goals and objectives stated in the Wenatchee National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan, USDA, 1990), as amended. All of the activities proposed are the types of implementation activities foreseen in the Forest Plan and have been routinely implemented over the life of the Forest Plan.

7. Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts. Significance exists if it is reasonable to anticipate a cumulatively significant impact on the environment. Significance cannot be avoided by terming an action temporary or by breaking it down into small component parts. The effects of implementing the actions included in the selected alternative would not be significant, individually or cumulatively, when considered with the effects of other past and reasonably foreseeable future actions. See the cumulative effects analysis in Chapter III of the EA.
8. The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources. The effects portion of the EA (Chapter III, pages III-71 through III-75), indicates that the selected alternative will have no significant adverse impacts on heritage resources, given the project design criteria associated with the action (EA, Chapter II, page II-8). Tribal consultation was conducted with the Yakama Nation and the Confederated Colville Tribes and no concerns were expressed about the project. NHPA Section 106 consultation requirements have been fulfilled in accordance with the terms of the Programmatic Agreement Among the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the Washington State Historic Preservation Officer Regarding Cultural Resources Management on National Forests in the State of Washington (1997: Beidl March 2008). Pages III-71 through III-75 of the EA describes the effects of the actions on heritage resources. No scientific resources are located within the project area.
9. The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act. Biological Assessments for threatened and endangered wildlife and aquatic species were completed (analysis file) and concluded that implementation of the adaptive management alternative "*may affect, not likely to adversely affect*" the grizzly bear, gray wolf, Canada lynx, northern spotted owl and its designated critical habitat, bull trout, middle Columbia River steelhead or its designated critical habitat. Consultation under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act concluded that the selected alternative included measures that were adequate to avoid, minimize, or otherwise offset potential adverse effects to designated Essential Fish Habitat. The Forest Service received concurrence letters from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (November 14, 2008) and from National Marine Fisheries Service (October 8, 2008). Field reconnaissance confirmed that the project area contains a variety of habitats suitable for target Proposed, Endangered, or Threatened species or listed critical habitat for these species. No observation of these species occurred during these surveys (EA, Chapter III, pages III-44 and III-45).

10. Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment. The actions described in the selected alternative do not threaten any violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment (see section on other laws below). The actions are consistent with the Amended Wenatchee Forest Plan direction, which has been found to be consistent with existing environmental statutes and regulations.

I find that implementing the Adaptive Management Alternative (Alternative 3) does not constitute a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment in either context or intensity. I have made this determination after considering both positive and negative effects, as well as direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of this action and reasonably foreseeable future actions.

I base my conclusion on a review of the record that shows a thorough review of relevant scientific information, a consideration of responsible opposing views, and the acknowledgment that there is not incomplete or unavailable information, scientific uncertainty, or risk associated with the selected alternative. This includes the effects analysis contained in the EA in Chapter III, public comment, and consultation with interested environmental groups and government agencies (EA, Chapter IV).

#### **FINDINGS REQUIRED BY OTHER LAWS**

##### Wenatchee National Forest Plan as Amended by the Northwest Forest Plan

The decision to implement the alternative is consistent with the intent and long-term goals and objectives of the Forest Plan. This project was designed in conformance with the Amended Forest Plan standards and guidelines for late successional reserves, matrix, administratively withdrawn areas, and riparian reserves<sup>1</sup>. The original Forest Plan allocations for the project area are general forest, scenic travel (ST-1: retention and ST-2: partial retention), and dispersed motorized unroaded recreation (RE-2). This AMP was written to meet forestwide goals and objectives by identifying unsatisfactory conditions (EA, Chapter I, pages I-2 and I-3, I-7 through I-9, and Chapter II, page II-11), and developing a plan to manage riparian areas (EA, Chapter II, pages II-2 through II-13). This project implements the Wenatchee Forest Plan direction to follow the allowable use guides on pages IV-90 and IV-91 of the Forest Plan (EA, Chapter I, pages II-4 and II-5, Appendix B, pages B-3 and B-4). No new range non-structural improvements are planned, and any structural improvements needed to implement the adaptive management strategy will be designed to meet the appropriate landscape management objectives for the specific land allocation. Visual quality objectives would be met (EA, Chapter III, page III-80).

In accordance with the grazing standard and guidelines for late successional reserves this project will not adversely affect late successional habitat (EA, Chapter III, page III-67).

<sup>1</sup> Matrix and Administratively Withdrawn land allocations represent <1% of the total allotment area and are not visible on Map I-3 or Map I-4, Appendix A.



Consistent with riparian reserve requirements, grazing practices meet aquatic conservation strategy objectives (EA, Chapter III, page III-20). No new livestock handling or management facilities are planned inside riparian reserves, and livestock trailing bedding, watering, loading and other handling efforts will meet the ACS. Surveys were completed for all species listed in the 2001 Survey and Manage Record of Decision, without subsequent annual species reviews. Although one species was found, these populations will be avoided and no effect is expected to them (EA, page 45, Botany Biological Evaluation, project file).

#### Roadless Area Conservation Rule

There are portions of three Inventoried Roadless Areas and two Proposed Wilderness Areas within the Swauk Allotment boundary. (EA, Chapter I, Table I-4 and Appendix A, Map I-5 and Map I-6). Grazing does not result in any irreversible or irretrievable effects to roadless character or to unroaded areas; affect manageability and boundaries for these areas, or impact surrounding opportunities for primitive recreation and challenge. The selected alternative is consistent with the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (RACR, 2001) because prohibited activities such as road construction, road reconstruction and the cutting, sale, or removal of timber are not part of this proposal, although project design was not influenced by the RACR in any way (EA, Chapter III, pages III-79 and III-80).

#### National Forest Management Act (NFMA)

The selected alternative meets the management requirements under 36 CFR 219.27 specific to soil and water conservation (including Riparian Reserves) (EA, Chapter III, pages III-2 through III-21), land productivity (EA, Chapter III, pages III-30 through III-35 and III-37 and III-38), wildlife habitat (EA, Chapter III, pages III-49 through III-71), air quality (EA, Chapter III, pages III-77 and III-78), and vegetation (EA, Chapter III, pages III-21 through III-45).

This decision is consistent with the National Forest Management Act and the intent of the Forest Plan's goals and objectives listed in the LRMP. Project design is in conformance with LRMP Forest-wide and Management Area standards and guidelines. The project is located in the Northwest Forest Plan land allocations of Late Successional Reserve, Matrix, Administratively Withdrawn, and Riparian Reserve. All of these land allocations allow for livestock grazing activities when they are consistent with the goals and objectives of those land allocations (see amended Wenatchee Forest Plan findings above).

#### National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

This project was prepared consistent with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), its implementing regulations, and the Forest Service NEPA handbook.

#### Endangered Species Act

Biological Assessments for threatened and endangered wildlife and aquatic species concluded that implementation of the adaptive management alternative "*may affect, not likely to adversely affect*" the grizzly bear, gray wolf, Canada lynx, northern spotted owl or its designated critical habitat, bull trout, Middle Columbia River steelhead or its

designated critical habitat (Analysis file). Concurrence was received from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (November 14, 2008) and from National Marine Fisheries Service (October 8, 2008). There are no currently known Proposed, Endangered, or Threatened plant species or listed critical habitat for these species within the analysis area. (EA, Chapter III, pages III-44 and III-45).

#### Magnuson – Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

The project will have no adverse affect on essential fish habitat for Chinook or coho salmon under the 1996 amendment to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (EA pages III-21, NOAA Fisheries Concurrence Letter in the project file).

#### Clean Air Act (CAA)

The project will not affect air quality and meets the requirements of the Clean Air Act (EA, Chapter III, pages III-77 and III-78).

#### Clean Water Act

Chapter III of the EA describes effects to water quality in the *Riparian Health and Fisheries* section (EA, Chapter III, pages III-2 through III-20) and the *Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS)* section (EA, Chapter III, pages III-120). Iron Creek, Swauk Creek and Williams Creek have been designated as water quality limited for temperature on the current state 303(d) list. Although vegetation shading along streams at water access points would be slightly reduced in the long term, it was concluded that the area potentially impacted is too small to result in any measurable change of water temperatures in the 303(d) listed waterbodies (Chapter III, pages III-8 and III-9). Compliance with the Clean Water Act will occur through the implementation of the Best Management Practices described in Chapter II.

#### Aquatic Conservation Strategy

This project is consistent with the Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) objectives. The project will maintain all nine objectives of the ACS at the project and 5<sup>th</sup> field watershed levels (EA, Chapter III, page III-20) through implementation of Best Management Practices and project design criteria which minimize or eliminate sedimentation to fish bearing channels (EA, Chapter II, pages II-5 through II-7 and Chapter III, pages III-2 through III-20).

#### National Historic Preservation Act

The Forest Service program for compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act includes locating, inventorying, and nominating all cultural sites that may be directly or indirectly affected by scheduled activities. In consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) it has been determined that the undertaking would affect no properties listed on or eligible to the National Register (EA, Chapter III, pages III-71 through III-75).

Alaska Native religious or cultural sites

The District heritage preservation specialist has determined that "no yet known religious or cultural sites will be affected by this project" (03/18/2010).

Floodplain Management (E.O. 11988), Protection of Wetlands (E.O. 11990), municipal watersheds

The selected alternative will not affect the functional value of any floodplain as defined by Executive Order 11988 and will not have negative impacts on wetlands as defined by Executive Order 11990 (EA, Chapter III, pages III-14 through III-20). These areas will be protected by implementing best management practices and riparian reserve standards and guidelines (see amended Wenatchee Forest Plan discussion above). This project does not take place within and will have no affect on municipal watersheds.

Environmental Justice (E.O. 12898)

I have determined that in accordance with Executive Order 12898 this project does not have disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority populations and low-income populations (EA, Chapter III, page III-79).

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISION**

This action may be implemented immediately.

## **DECISION SUBJECT TO APPEAL**

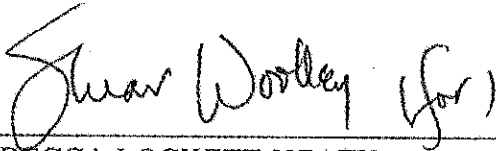
Pursuant to 36 CFR 215.12(e)(1), this project is not subject to appeal under 36 CFR 215 by any party because no comments were received during the comment period.

This project is appealable by the permittee under 36 CFR 251. An appeal by the permittee under 36 CFR 251 must be consistent with 36 CFR 251.90 (content of notice of appeal), and must be made in writing, postmarked, and sent to the Reviewing Officer within 45 days of this decision. The time begins the first day following this written notice. The appeal must provide the Reviewing Officer sufficient evidence to show why a decision should be reversed or changed. The Reviewing Officer is: Regional Forester, Attention: 1570 Appeals, Pacific Northwest Region, P.O. Box 3623 (mail) 333 SW First Avenue (deliveries), Portland, Oregon 97208-3623 (mail), 97204-3440 (deliveries). The fax number for the Regional Forester is (503) 808-2339. The permittee may alternately file an electronic appeal at: [appeals-pacificnorthwest-regional-office@fs.fed.us](mailto:appeals-pacificnorthwest-regional-office@fs.fed.us). An electronic appeal must be submitted in one of the following formats; as part of an email message; rich text format (.rtf); portable document format (.pdf) or; Word (.doc or .docx). Appeals containing viruses will be rejected.

In accordance with 36 CFR 251.84, by way of this decision, I am offering to meet with the permittee to hear and discuss any concerns or issues relating to my decision.

**INFORMATION CONTACT PERSON**

For additional information concerning this decision or the Forest Service appeal process, contact Jodi Leingang, Wenatchee South Range Zone Administrator, 10237 Highway 12, Naches, WA, 98937, at 509-653-1450, or via email at [jleingang@fs.fed.us](mailto:jleingang@fs.fed.us).



REBECCA LOCKETT-HEATH  
Forest Supervisor  
Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest

9/30/2010  
Date

Attachment (1): Forest Service Consideration of Comments

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### Forest Service Consideration of Comments

**Commenter:** S. Martinez Livestock Inc  
13391 Hwy 24  
Moxee, WA 98936  
Received: 09/28/2010

Following review of the EA, S. Martinez Livestock Inc. has the following comments:

1. There has been no mention of increased development of residential housing on adjacent private lands and the effects on wildlife habitat and increased recreational use.

*Forest Service Response: The extent of private land within the Swauk allotment has remained unchanged with respect to increased development of residential housing. Residential housing development has not occurred outside of the existing perimeter previously established as private land. No new land acquisition or exchanges have occurred that would affect permitted grazing of the Swauk allotment.*

2. We are concerned about the continuous spreading of noxious weeds. We realize the Forest Service is very aware of this and is continually seeking solutions other than chemical usage. We would encourage the use of sheep grazing as a possible solution in certain circumstances. Sheep grazed areas have also shown to be helpful with fire reduction. Although fires will still be present, they will be less intense in areas of managed grazing.

*Forest Service Response: This analysis considered the effect of the proposed grazing activities on the spread of invasive species across the Swauk Allotment. The analysis also considered the cumulative effects (i.e. the effect of this action in combination with past, present (on-going) and future foreseeable actions) of the proposal. This decision implements a prevention strategy which will minimize or avoid the potential for this action to contribute to an increase in the spread of invasive species on the allotment.*

*With respect to the use of domestic sheep for fire reduction, the purpose of this analysis was to examine the effects of the proposed grazing of domestic sheep on the Swauk Allotment. Analysis of the use of sheep for fire reduction purposes is outside the scope of this analysis.*